

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HEW-04 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 USIA-06 EB-08
IO-13 SS-15 NSC-05 AGRE-00 /105 W
-----013926 230918Z /10
P 230850Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5206

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1448

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SO, US
SUBJ: SOMALI REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FOOD

1. DIRECTOR STATE PLANNING COMMISSION YUSUF WEIRAH SUMMONED ME ON URGENT BASIS EVENING OF AUGUST 22. WEIRAH TOLD ME THAT GSDR WAS IN CRITICAL NEED OF FOOD SUPPLIES TO HELP FEED LIBERATED TERRITORIES IN ETHIOPIA AS WELL AS LOCAL POPULATIONS. WEIRAH SAID THAT HE NEEDED 317,000 TONS OF FOOD STUFFS AND ASKED IF THIS COULD BE SUPPLIED IMMEDIATELY.

2. I TOLD WEIRAH THAT AMERICAN AID EXPERT WAS ARRIVING MOGADISCIO THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 TO LOOK INTO SOMALI FOOD NEEDS AND THAT HE WOULD UNDERTAKE SURVEY. WEIRAH EXPRESSED SOME DISMAY AND SAID SOMALIA DID NOT NEED EXPERTS, IT NEEDED FOOD IMMEDIATELY. I SAID THAT US NOT IN POSITION TO ASSIST SOMALIA IN SUPPLYING FOOD UNTIL ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION COMPLETED. ASSESSMEN WILL BE MADE DURING RUSSELL VISIT.

3. ALSO I ATTEMPTED TO POINT OUT THAT WHILE US WILLING TO ASSIST SOMALIA, IT COULD HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN SUPPLYING FOOD FOR LIBERATED TERRITORIES IN ETHIOPIA. WEIRAH SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THAT PROBLEM. AT ONE POINT IN CONVERSATION WEIRAH ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOMALIA'S PROBLEMS WERE NOW US PROBLEMS AS WELL. I ATTEMPTED TO DISABUSE HIM
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OF THAT NOTION.

4. WEIRAH WAS ALSO DISPLEASED WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT RUSSELL WAS US AID OFFICER BASED IN DAR ES SALAAM. HE THOUGHT URGENCY OF SOMALI SITUATION NECESSITATED VISIT OF WASHINGTON BASED EXPERT. HE EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY HE WOULD NOT PERSONALLY RECEIVE RUSSELL BECAUSE HE WAS NOT

BASED IN WASHINGTON. I EXPLAINED TO WEIRAH THAT RUSSELL WAS BEING SENT BY WASHINGTON BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERTISE AND BECAUSE HE HAD CONVENIENT ACCESS TO MOGADISCIO. THE FACT THAT HE BASED IN DAR ES SALAAM HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH WASHINGTON'S SENSE URGENCY OF PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR FROM BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF WEIRAH CONVERSATION THAT HE EXPECTS US TO COME TO SOMALIA'S ASSISTANCE IN FEEDING SURPLUS POPULATIONS WON BY OGADEN VICTORIES. HE ALSO SEEMS TO THINK THAT US WILLINGNESS TO DRAW CLOSER TO SOMALIA GIVES HIM CAPACITY FOR UNLIMITED DRAW-DOWN ON US RESOURCES. WEIRAH'S ENGLISH IS NOT VERY GOOD AND MY ITALIAN IS EVEN WORSE. I WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN TO HIM WHY ABOVE ASSUMPTIONS ARE NOT TRUE.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOGADI01448
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770303-1113
Format: TEL
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770834/aaaabbyb.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3af86856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1517732
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOMALI REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY FOOD
TAGS: EAID, SO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3af86856-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009